

George Sandoval's Teaching Philosophy Statement

As an educator, I am deeply committed to fostering a learning environment where every student feels valued, respected, and fully engaged. I believe that education is a transformative process that imparts knowledge and shapes individuals and societies. My teaching philosophy is grounded in the principles of inclusivity, diversity, and equity, and is informed by an understanding of the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class. As a first-generation scholar from a historically underrepresented group with intersectional lived experiences as a disabled queer person, my goal as a community college educator is to create a learning environment where every student has an equitable chance at success.

- **Students at the Center:** My primary focus is on the students—their experiences, backgrounds, and aspirations. I strive to connect with each student, understanding that each brings a unique perspective to the classroom. By centering students in the learning process, I aim to empower them to take ownership of their education and cultivate a lifelong passion for learning.
- **Inclusive Learning:** Inclusivity is not just a strategy but a core value guiding my teaching approach. I design my curriculum to be accessible to all students, incorporating various teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles and abilities. I am mindful of the diverse needs of my students and work diligently to create an atmosphere where everyone can thrive.
- **Embracing Diversity:** Diversity enriches the educational experience. I actively seek to include various voices and perspectives in my course materials and discussions. By doing so, I help students appreciate the value of diverse viewpoints and understand the broader context of their education.
- **Technology as a Tool for Equity:** I leverage technology to enhance learning and bridge gaps in educational access. From digital resources to online collaboration platforms, I integrate technology thoughtfully to support and extend learning opportunities. I am also aware of the digital divide and strive to ensure that technology is a tool for equity, not a barrier.
- **Intersectionality and Education:** Recognizing the complex layers of identity, I address the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class in my teaching. I encourage students to explore how these aspects of identity influence their own lives and the lives of others. Through this exploration, we can better understand the systemic inequities that affect education and work towards a more just society.
- **Commitment to Equity:** Equity is the cornerstone of my educational philosophy. I am dedicated to identifying and dismantling barriers to success for all students. This means addressing disparities in educational outcomes and challenging the structures and practices that perpetuate inequality.

In conclusion, my teaching philosophy is a living document that evolves as I learn from my students and colleagues. It reflects my commitment to creating a learning environment where every student can succeed and where education is a force for positive change in the world.